



# GET READY, SANTA BARBARA!

*Increasing emergency awareness and preparedness in our community*

## Why Prepare?

### Contents:

- **Why Prepare?**
- **12 Months to Preparedness**
- **Main Feature:**
  - ⇒ **L.I.E.S.**
- **Santa Barbara History**
  - ⇒ **Downtown Post Office**
- **Get Involved**
  - ⇒ **SBARC**
- **Prepping for Frost**
- **Quiz Time**
- **Calendar of Events**

### Inside this issue:

L.I.E.S.	2
Santa Barbara History	3
Get Involved	3
Preparedness Theme	3
Calendar of Events	4
Quiz Time!	4

### Upcoming Issues

MARCH  
Hazardous Materials

APRIL  
First Aid

MAY  
30-2-Can Do

JUNE  
Triage

JULY  
Search and Rescue



We spend a lot of time in this newsletter encouraging and teaching you to prepare yourself and your loved ones for a disaster or emergency. What we haven't spent a lot of time on is why. Why should you take the time out of your busy life to prepare for 'the big one'? If we break it down by numbers it is easy to see why being self sufficient after a disaster is crucial.

The city of Santa Barbara is home to:

- ⇒ Over 89,000 residents (doesn't include, tourist, transients, and people just stuck on the freeway)
- ⇒ 8 fire stations for a total of 28 fire personnel on shift at any given time (7 in SB City and 1 at the Airport)
- ⇒ 1 ambulance house within city limits which usually has 4 personnel to staff 2 ambulances
- ⇒ 1 police station with a minimum of 9-18 officers on duty (depending on time of day)

**That is a total of 41 emergency response personnel on duty at any given time to respond to a disaster. That is one emergency responder for every 2,170 residents.**

In large scale disaster, such as an earthquake, these responders may be all we have for a few days if there is major freeway damage. Further earthquakes often create what are known as secondary disasters such as fires from ruptured gas lines and flooding from broken water mains. These will need to be handled by emergency personnel too. Your preparedness not only helps these responders prioritize their calls for service, but it will also help to keep you safe and satiated in the early hours and possibly days after a disaster. **The City of Santa Barbara is committed to preparing staff to respond to emergencies, and your responsibility and commitment should be to prepare you and your family for disaster and keep safe!**

## 12-Months to Preparedness— Make a Plan

**All the preparation in the world won't help without a plan!** This month sit down with your family and make a plan. What to do in various emergency scenarios, where you will meet if you are in different locations when it occurs, etc. Remember to **SHARE** this plan with your extended family or friends (out of state) and with your children. Also, take the time to inquire about emergency plans at your workplace or children's school. For more information on creating an emergency plan [click here](#).

**This month's item to purchase is water!** Remember the rule of thumb is 1 gallon/person/per day with a MINIMUM supply to last 3 days (preferably 5 -7 days). You can purchase bottled water from any supermarket or order special water containers or bladders online (sometimes this option is easier to store because of its shape). This water should be replaced every 6 months or so, so keep that in mind when storing it. Whatever form you buy it or store it in, make sure you have enough for the whole family!

Remember, any extra cash you didn't put towards this month's purchase you should save and put in your kit. Cash only, small bills!

## L.I.E.S.



Some of the many types of chemicals found in the average home

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**Chemicals that are not handled, stored, and disposed of properly create real hazards to people, animals, property, and the environment.**

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Chemicals should be handled with CAUTION!

It is finally here, the article you have been waiting for. What on earth does L.I.E.S. stand for? It stands for: Limit, Isolate, Eliminate and Separate and it pertains to chemicals.

Specifically, it is used to remind people that many household cleaners and home care products contain high levels of dangerous chemicals and toxins. Chemicals that are not handled, stored, and disposed of properly create real hazards to people, animals, property, and the environment.

Use the L.I.E.S. procedure to ensure safety:

- ⇒ **L**imit the amount of hazardous materials that you have stored.
- ⇒ **I**solate products in approved containers, and protect them from sources of ignition.
- ⇒ **E**liminate products that are no longer necessary by disposing of them properly.
- ⇒ **S**eparate incompatible materials.

Nearly every household uses products that contain hazardous materials. You may not realize the products you use everyday are hazardous including hairspray, laundry detergent, nail polish and perfume. You **MUST** read the labels on products to learn how to use them properly. Most chemical accidents are preventable.

However, because accidents do happen, knowing what to do if there is a hazardous materials emergency is important. Taking the appropriate actions can reduce the risk of injury. Some household chemicals are dangerous when inhaled. Others are dangerous when ingested or absorbed through the skin.

Exposed persons can display one or more of the following symptoms:

- ⇒ Difficulty breathing
- ⇒ Changes in skin color
- ⇒ Headaches, blurred vision, dizziness
- ⇒ Cramps or diarrhea
- ⇒ Irritation of the eyes, skin, throat, or respiratory tract
- ⇒ Clumsiness or lack of coordination

**Should you suspect ingestion of, or exposure to, hazardous chemicals contact poison control immediately at 800.222.1222. This number is the same from anywhere in the U.S.**

The labels on products provide important information about their proper use and their dangers.

Besides using household chemicals properly, there are other ways to protect yourself in your home, such as the following. The tips below can ensure safe handling of household chemicals.

- ⇒ Read all directions before buying and using a new chemical product.
- ⇒ Note labels that read; Warning, Caution, Dangerous, Flammable, Corrosive, etc.
- ⇒ Be sure to store household chemicals according to the instructions on the label in a safe, secure location, out of the reach of children.
- ⇒ Avoid mixing products. Deadly fumes can result from the mixture of chemicals, such as chlorine bleach and ammonia.
- ⇒ Never smoke while using household chemicals. Avoid using hairspray, cleaning solutions, paint products, or pesticides near an open flame, pilot light, lit candle, fireplace, wood-burning stove, etc. Although you may not be able to see or smell them, vapors could ignite causing a fire or explosion.
- ⇒ If you spill a chemical, follow directions for cleaning it up or contact outside help. Protect your eyes and skin. Use rubber gloves and goggles, and dispose of cleaning materials as directed on the product label.

Disposing of household chemicals properly is critical in ensuring not only your safety, but of those around you. To find out how to properly dispose of most types of waste (hazardous and otherwise) check out Santa Barbara County's FANTASTIC website [www.lessismore.org](http://www.lessismore.org).

**\*\*Please remember that medications (over-the-counter and prescribed) are also considered hazardous waste and should be disposed of properly. Find out how at [www.lessismore.org](http://www.lessismore.org).**

## Santa Barbara History– The Downtown Post Office

This month's column was inspired by a question from reader Christina who wondered about the history of the downtown post office.

The post office on the corner of Anacapa and Canon Perdido streets (836 Anacapa Street) was constructed in 1937 to be a post office. Prior to 1937 however the property was home to several other businesses including residences, billiard hall, barber shop and the Ming Hing Co. Oriental Goods Shop.

Originally designed by American architect Reginald Johnson as part of The New Deal, the post office underwent major interior renovations in the 1970's changing the interior from several bank teller-type win-

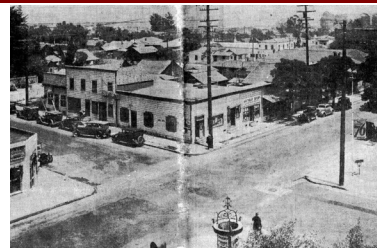
dows to larger open counters with more room for personal mailboxes.

As a side note, Johnson also designed many Montecito homes including what is now The Music Academy of the West.

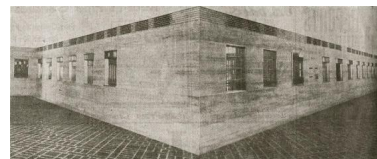
In 1985 the post office was added to the [National Register of Historical places](#) by the U.S. Department of Interior citing its architecture and engineering.

References: [Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation](#) and [The Music Academy of the West](#)

*Do you have some Santa Barbara history you want to share? Maybe you have some interesting family history? Or maybe you have a question about a certain area or building. We want to hear it! Send us your stories or questions about the history of Santa Barbara to [DDanetra@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:DDanetra@SantaBarbaraCA.gov).*



The only known picture of the corner of Anacapa and Canon Perdido Streets prior to the building of the post office (taken from the top of the Lobero). Photo courtesy of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.



The original post-office interior with 'bank teller' windows. Photo courtesy of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

## Getting Involved—Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club

**Join the Team**—Established in 1920, the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club has been assisting the public, and public service agencies alike, in Santa Barbara during all types of events. Their skills and expertise are used during parades and other large scale public events as well as emergencies and disasters.

**What Moves Them**— SBARC is a non-profit public benefit corporation organized to promote education for persons interested in telecommunications, to disseminate

information about scientific discoveries and progress in the field, and to train communicators for public service and emergency communications.

**How to Get Involved**— Check out the SBARC webpage to read about their history and current projects. You can contact them directly for more information on classes and events.

[Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club Webpage](#)

## Preparing Your Home for Frost

While we don't get a ton of cold weather here in Santa Barbara the recent drop in temperatures remind us that it does happen and there are ways we can prepare our homes.

Plants are often susceptible to cold weather—especially plants here that are not used to such type of conditions. If notified of a frost warning, you should water your susceptible plants before going to bed. The moist soil will trap heat better creating a humid "cloud" around the plant. A few inches of mulch will

also help insulate a plant during a cold snap. Do not water plants the morning after, let them defrost naturally.

Another thing to think about during the cold is critters. Like us, they seek warmth when the temperature drops. Check your home for cracks or spaces, especially around windows and doors that may allow in bugs and rodents looking to stay warm. Even small cracks should be sealed, because if a bug can get in, so can cold air!



Prepare Early!

### Quiz Time—Valentines Edition!

#### Santa Barbara City Office of Emergency Services

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We're on the Web

[www.santabarbaraca.gov/oes](http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/oes)

- 1) Valentines day is the second busiest holiday for the greeting card industry after what other holiday?
  - a) Halloween
  - b) Christmas
  - c) Fourth of July
  - d) Easter
- 2) The patent for what modern invention was applied for on Valentines Day 1876?
  - a) Telephone
  - b) Cotton Gin
  - c) Transistor Radio
  - d) Movie Camera
- 3) What percentage of Valentine's Day cards are purchased by women?
  - a) 92%
  - b) 74%
  - c) 85%
  - d) 55%
- 4) Cupid is the son of what Roman goddess?
  - a) Luna
  - b) Deverra
  - c) Venus
  - d) Fortuna

Answers: 1) b; 2) a; 3) c; 4) c

**City News—Safely Out—** Safely Out™ is a project of Citizen Voice, developed with technical assistance from the Red Cross—Sacramento Sierra Chapter, to help ensure that our most vulnerable citizens—including the disabled, frail, seniors, young children and more are protected during a disaster. In the Baja Mesa area of Santa Barbara City, the residents are being offered the Safely Out kit to assist with communication in the event of a disaster. Greg Jacobson, A Baja Mesa resident, has been instrumental in working with Citizen Voice and the City of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services and his neighborhood in creating a more disaster resistant community. For more information on the Safely Out program or starting a program in your community you can go to [www.CitizenVoice.org](http://www.CitizenVoice.org) or you can contact Greg Jacobson.



Contributor: Greg Jacobson, Resident Baja Mesa

## Upcoming Events

# February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Groundhog Day
3 Super Bowl	4	5 National Pancake Day	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Mardi Gras	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 National Gum Drop Day	16
17	18 President's Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 National Tooth Fairy Day		